

REMARKS/SUMMARY

Applicants wish to note that the above-presented amendments have been made for consistency purposes. Specifically, the abstract and the summary of the invention have been amended to mirror the subject matter of the allowed claims. Applicants would like to emphasize that no new matter has been added via the current amendment to the specification.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 9, 2008

A portable computing/electronic device includes a reduced set of keyboard

character/function keys. A first set of keys are provided as character entry keys. Each key position corresponds to one character of a selected set characters. Character subsets are selectively chosen by the user during character entry. A second set of keys (control buttons) provide for the selection of which set of characters will be represented by the character key positions in addition to other functions such as case shift, and alpha-numerical control functions. In the preferred embodiment, the first set of keys are actuated by the user's fingers and the second set with the thumbs. The keys are arranged in various configurations including use of side surfaces or simultaneous use of two differing surfaces. In a further embodiment, the sets of characters are the characters in a selected row of a conventional QWERTY keyboard. The control buttons provide for selection of which row of the traditional QWERTY keyboard is associated with the character key positions along with other control functions. In order to provide visual feedback, the selected set of characters is shown on a display.

In an alternate embodiment, the key positions are implemented utilizing LCD elements with pressure sensors located in the corresponding key locations. The characters associated with the character entry keys are displayed directly on the corresponding key positions.

In a further embodiment, the electronic device is a wristwatch. Half of the keyboard, i.e. five character keys and associated control keys, are implemented on a flexible assembly. The assembly is stored beneath the band of the wrist watch. When the keyboard is to be used for input, it is pivotally folded out from under the band and laid

across the user's hand. The other hand is then utilized to input the desired information. Alternatively, two flex assemblies are utilized and when the watch is placed on a surface, both hands are utilized to perform input.

In a further embodiment, the electronic device is a portable phone, such as a cellular phone.

As in the wristwatch embodiment, one or two members having character and control keys implemented thereon are attached to the phone. Preferably, these members are permanently attached to the phone and rotate outwards in a manner similar to the keyboard of the wristwatch such that they are positioned at 90 degrees to the length of the phone. Input is performed using both hands in the case two members are provided, or is performed using a single hand in the case only one member is provided.

In a further embodiment, the electronic device is a portable phone, such as a cellular phone, where, instead of permanently attached or externally attachable members having the character keys and control keys implemented thereon, the keys are placed on the sides of the phone. Preferably, the character keys are placed on one side of the phone while the control keys are placed on the side opposite thereof, although other arrangements are envisioned. Character input is performed by the users fingers, while the thumbs are used to actuate the control keys. Ideally, the phone display is rotatable 90 degrees from its normal position so as to be in the correct orientation for viewing by the user.